

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An information processing device, comprising:

an input/output device operable to send and receive data to and from an external device by using a standard digital interface format;

an encoder operable to encode the data to be sent to the external device;

a decoder operable to decode the received data from the external device~~when said received data is encrypted data;~~

a judging unit operable to judge:(i) whether said received data is audio data, and (ii) whether said encrypted data has been properly decoded; and

~~an output stop unit means~~ operable to execute mute processing to prevent sound emission when said judging unit determines if any one of the following two items exists:(i) said received data is not audio data, and (ii) said encrypted data has not been properly decoded and to not execute mute processing when said judging unit does not determine if any one of the two items exists.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when said judging unit judges that said encrypted data has been properly decoded after the mute processing has been initiated ~~by said output stop unit,~~ the mute processing operation of said output stop unit is canceled after a predetermined time has elapsed, whereby the output of said data from said decoder is resumed.

4. (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising the steps of:

sending and receiving data to and from an external device by using a standard digital interface format;

encoding the data to be sent to the external device;

decoding the received data from the external device~~when said received data is encrypted data;~~

judging whether said received data is audio data, and whether the encrypted data has been properly decoded; and

executing mute processing to prevent sound emission when the judging step determines if any one of the following two items exists: (i) said received data is not audio data, and (ii) the encrypted data has not been properly decoded and not executing mute processing when the judging step does not determine if any one of the two items exists.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The information processing method as claimed in claim 4, wherein, when the judging step judges that the encrypted data has been properly decoded after mute processing has been initiated by the executing step, the ~~executing step~~ mute processing is cancelled after a predetermined time has elapsed, whereby the output of the data from the decoding step is resumed.

7. (currently amended) A recording medium recorded with a computer-readable program for information processing, the program comprising the steps of:

sending and receiving data to and from an external device by using a standard digital interface format;

encoding the data to be sent to the external device;

decoding the received data from the external device when ~~said received data is encrypted data;~~

judging whether said received data is audio data, and whether the encrypted data has been properly decoded; and

executing mute processing to prevent sound emission when the judging step determines if any one of the following two items exists: (i) said received data is not audio data, and (ii) the encrypted data has not been properly decoded and not executing mute processing when the judging step does not determine if any one of the two items exists.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The recording medium recorded with a computer-readable program as claimed in claim 7, wherein, when the judging step judges that the encrypted data has been properly decoded after mute processing has been initiated by the executing step, the executing step mute processing is cancelled after a predetermined time has elapsed, whereby the output of the data from the decoding step is resumed.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (new) The information processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the external device is a digital television receiver and wherein the standard digital interface format conforms to a IEEE 1394 standard.

14. (new) The information processing method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the external device is a digital television receiver and wherein the standard digital interface format conforms to a IEEE 1394 standard.

15. (new) The recording medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein the external device is a digital television receiver and wherein the standard digital interface format conforms to a IEEE 1394 standard.